# Montana Department of Fish .Wildlife & Parks

Region One 490 North Meridian Rd. Kalispell, MT 59901 (406) 752-5501 FAX: 406-257-0349 Ref:DV152.96 October 16, 1996

TO: Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, 59620-1704
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Metcalf Bldg., PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Director's Office Fisheries Division Regional Supervisor Jeff Erickson (when LWCF) Parks Division Lands Section Legal Unit

Montana Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, 225 North Roberts, Veteran's Memorial Building, Helena, 59620-1201

Montana State Library, 1515 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, 59620-1800

Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, PO Box 1184, Helena, 59624

George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, 59624

Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation, PO Box 728, Libby, 59923

Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, PO Box 595, Helena, 59624

Montana State Parks Association, PO Box 699, Billings, 59103

Donald Kern, Program Director, Montana River Action Network, PO Box 383, 30 N Last Chance Gulch, Helena, 59624

Rep. Bob Keenan, PO Box 697, Bigfork, 59911

Sen. Larry Baer, 6093 Montana Hwy 35, Bigfork, 59911

Flathead County Commissioners, 800 S. Main, Kalispell, 59901

Flathead County Library, Columbia Falls Branch, 130 6th St. W., Columbia Falls, 59912

Ted & Christina Nichols, 3825 Hwy 40 W., Columbia Falls, 59912-8934

Irma Walton, 410 Hwy 2 E., Columbia Falls, 59912-3939

Donald & Marcia Tate, 450 Hwy 2 E., Columbia Falls, 59912-3939

Gary Root, 490 Hwy 2 E., Columbia Falls, 59912-3939

Jerrie Wulff, 524 Hwy 2 E., Columbia Falls, 59912

John & Donna Ganiere, Box 381, Bigfork, 59911-0381

Carol & Kevin Ramage, 1429 2nd Ave. E., Columbia Falls, 59912-3947

Anita & Jackie DePrist, 511 Dollar, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Irv & Linda Burnham & Kathleen Norem, Box 0985, Kalispell, 59901

llse Knight, 640 Hwy 2 E., Columbia Falls, 59912

Nick & Geraldine Gabanyicz, 624 Hwy 2 E., Columbia Falls, 59912

Norman Kelley & Crystal Ferguson, 608 Hwy 2 E., Columbia Falls, 59912

#### Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for Gabanyicz Land Exchange;

Teakettle Fishing Access Site, and is submitted for your consideration. Questions and comments will be accepted until Tuesday, November 12, 1996. There will be an open house on Tuesday, October 29, 1996 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Glacier Inn Restaurant on Hwy 2 East in Columbia Falls. Please direct you questions or comments to Marty Watkins at the above address or by calling (406) 751-4575. Thank you.

Dan Vincent

Singerely

Regional Supervisor

# DRAFT

# MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

# PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1	Type of Proposed State Action	To alleviate a trespass situation at Teakettle Fishing
	Access Site.	

- 2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action Montana Annotated Code 23-1-101.
- 3. Name of Project Gabanyicz Land Exchange; Teakettle Fishing Access Site
- 4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks 490 N. Meridian Kalispell, MT 59901

5. If Applicable:

(c)

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: 12/1/96 Estimated Completion Date: 2/1/97

Current Status of Project Design (% complete): N/A

6. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)

Flathead County, S16, T30N, R20W. Tract 1AJ and AH, and Tract 1A. See Attached Map.

- 7. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:
  - Floodplain . . . . . . acres Developed: (a) (d) residential . . . . 107 acres industrial . . . . . \_ acres Productive: (e) acres dry cropland ..... (b) Open Space/Woodlands/ Recreation . . <u>.124</u> acres forestry . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . \_\_ acres rangeland ...... acres

other ......

acres

8. Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan

See appendix Au. 3/93

should also be attached.

Wetlands/Riparian

Areas .... acres

9. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.

The purpose of this proposed action is to divest the department of management responsibility for a private road and carport located on the Teakettle Fishing Access Site property.

After a survey of Fish, Wildlife and Parks Teakettle Fishing Access Site property in 1994, it was discovered that a private road and a portion of yard and a portable 10' x 20' carport were located within the boundary of the site. Mr. Gabanyicz proposed a land trade in order to receive ownership of the land these items were on. A private road located within the area to be traded serves as one of two access roads for private residences located near the site. See Appendix A.

Four alternatives will be evaluated in this EA to alleviate the trespass situation:

<u>Alternative I</u>: No action: Do not implement the land trade, request that Mr. Gabanyicz remove his temporary carport personal property from that portion of the road belonging to Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Alternative II: Trade land and grant new road easement: Complete the trade, but grant a private road easement completely through Fish, Wildlife and Parks property.

Alternative III: Trade land: Implement land trade as proposed by Mr.

Gabanvicz.

Alternative IV: Trade land but keep a road easement: Implement the land trade as proposed, but keep a road easement to grant to nearly residents on the portion of the road traded.

10. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) Permits: Agency Name	Permit	Date Filed/#	<u> </u>
(b) Funding: Agency Name	Funding Amount		
Fish, Wildlife and Parks	\$0	)	***
(c) Other Overlapping of Agency Name	or Additional Juriso Type of Respons	and the second	si <b>bilities</b> :

# PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

# YYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. LAND RESOURCES		IM	Can Impact	Comment		
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown <sup>©</sup>	None	Minor <sup>©</sup>	Potentially Significant	Be Mitigated. <sup>©</sup>	Index
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		х				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?		×				
▶ c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		×				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		х				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		х				
f. Other				30000		

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

#### PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

. AIR		IMF	PACT		Can Impact	Comment
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown <sup>©</sup>	None	Minor <sup>☆</sup>	Potentially Significant	Be Mitigated <sup>☼</sup>	Index
► a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))	e e	х				
b. Creation of objectionable odors?	3	x				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		. <b>x</b>				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		x				
e.♦ <u>For P-R/D-J projects</u> , will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)		x				
f. Other					>	

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

<sup>♦ ♦</sup> Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

# PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

3. WATER		IM	PACT®		Can Impact	Comment
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown <sup>☆</sup>	None	Minor <sup>☆</sup>	Potentially Significant	Be Mitigated <sup>☼</sup>	Index
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		x	2			
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		х				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?		x				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		x				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		x				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		х				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		x				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		х			***************************************	
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		x				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		х				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		x				
I. ♦ ♦ For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)		х				
m. ◆ For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)		×				
n. Other:						

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

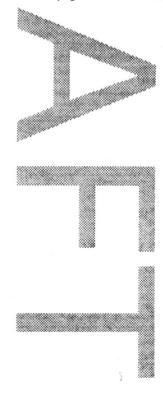
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# PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. <u>VEGETATION</u>		IM	Can Impact	Comment		
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown <sup>☆</sup>	None	Minor <sup>©</sup>	Potentially Significant	Be Mitigated <sup>☼</sup>	Index
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance     of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops,     and aquatic plants)?		- <b>x</b>				
b. Alteration of a plant community?		x				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		x				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?	92	x				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		х				
f. ♦ ♦ For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		x				
g. Other:						



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Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

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#### PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

► 5. FISH/WILDLIFE		IMF	PACT		Can Impact	Comment
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown <sup>⇔</sup>	None	Minor <sup>⇔</sup>	Potentially Significant	Be Mitigated <sup>©</sup>	Index
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		х				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		х				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		×				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		х				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		x				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		x				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		×				
h. ♦ ♦ For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)	u .	×				
i. ♦ For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)		х				
j. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

#### **HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS		IMPACT <sup>☆</sup>				Comment
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown <sup>⇔</sup>	None	Minor <sup>☆</sup>	Potentially Significant	Be Mitigated <sup>©</sup>	Index
a. Increases in existing noise levels?		х				
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		х				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		x				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		x			)	
e. Other:						

Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

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7. LAND USE		IM	PACT <sup>©</sup>		Can Impact	Comment
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown <sup>⇔</sup>	None	Minor <sup>☆</sup>	Potentially Significant	Be Mitigated <sup>☆</sup>	Index
Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		×			Yes	7.a.
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		x				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		×				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		x			Yes	7.d.
e. Other:						,

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative # needed):

7.a. & d.: In the past there were two access roads for the private residences located near Teakettie Fishing Access Site. One access was through both Mr. Gabanyicz's property and Fish, Wildlife and Parks property. The other access was between Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Allen's property. Neither of these accesses were by easement deed or title. When Mr. Gabanyicz purchased his property he blocked off this access road. This caused considerable controversy. Allowing Mr. Gabanyicz to trade or not trade for the piece of property desired would not change the fact that Mr. Gabanyicz has title to a section of the existing road next to his property, and believes he has a legal right to close it. A prescriptive right to use this road could be pursued by the nearby property owners, and a trade should have no bearing on that case.

Mr. Ferguson has granted easements to two landowners to use the other road. There has been some discussion as to lether he had ownership of the property in question, and hence had legal right to do so. See Attachment B for copies of these easements. If easements are granted or prescriptive right proved, this would solve the access dilemma for the residents.

One alternative (Alternative IV) under consideration would be to trade the land, but give easement rights to nearby owners to use this road. This action alone would not provide access, as Mr. Gabanyicz could close the section of road on his property. Alternative II would have Fish, Wildlife and Parks reconstruct the road on FWP property exclusively. This would impact public recreational use, increase development and maintenance costs, and be illegal under the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund act, due to the conversion of park property to private use.

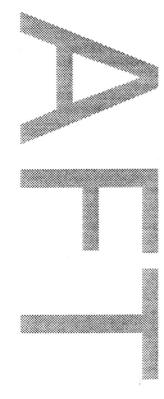
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Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

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<sup>♦♦</sup> Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS		IM	Can Impact	Comment		
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown <sup>©</sup>	None	Minor <sup>©</sup>	Potentially Significant	Be Mitigated <sup>☆</sup>	Index
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		х				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		×				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		x				
d. ♦ <u>For P-R/D-J</u> , will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		x				
e. Other:						



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Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

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<sup>♦ ♦</sup> Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT		IM	PACT <sup>©</sup>		Can Impact	Comment
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown <sup>©</sup>	None	Minor <sup>©</sup>	Potentially Significant	Be Mitigated <sup>☆</sup>	Index
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		x				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		x				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		×				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		х				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?			X,		No	9.e.
f. Other:			8			

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative of needed):

9.e. See 7.a. & d. above.

#### **HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

TOTAL ELIVATION DE LA CASA DE LA						
10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES		IM	PACT <sup>©</sup>		Can Impact	Comment
Will the proposed action:	Unknown <sup>☆</sup>	None	Minor <sup>☆</sup>	Potentially Significant	Be Mitigated <sup>©</sup>	Index
Have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		х				
b. Have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		x				
c. Result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?	,	x				
d. Result in increased used of any energy source?		х				
▶ e. Define projected revenue sources		×				
▶ f. Define projected maintenance costs.	2 7	x			y	
g. Other:						
					Contract of the last of the la	

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Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

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► 11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION		IM	PACT®		Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>©</sup>	Comment Index
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown <sup>‡</sup>	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		×				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		×				
▶ c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)			x			11.c.
d. ♦ For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)		х				
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

11.c. The selection of the alternative II, which would move the entire road on to FWP property would lessen the availability of recreational opportunity by reducing the land base of usable land. Additionally, increased traffic would require additional funding to maintain a private road, and would conflict with Department policy. Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds spent to acquire and develop the site would also have to be repaid due to the conversion of the site to private use.

#### **HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT						
12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES	IMPACT <sup>©</sup>				Can Impact	Comment
Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown <sup>©</sup>	None	Minor <sup>⇔</sup>	Potentially Significant	Be Mitigated <sup>☆</sup>	Index
▶ a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		×				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		×				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		x				
d. ♦ ♦ For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a)		х				
e. Other:				4	)	

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13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE	IMPACT <sup>©</sup>				Can Impact Be	Comment
Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	Unknown <sup>☆</sup>	None	Minor <sup>©</sup>	Potentially Significant	Mitigated <sup>©</sup>	Index
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		×				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		×				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		x				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?				x	No	13.d.
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		х				
f. ♦ For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)						
g. ♦ ♦ <u>For P-R/D-J</u> , list any federal or state permits						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

13.d. Alternative II would set a precedent of granting private easements through public land to solve long existing access problems that could be solved through other easements or prescriptive rights. This will have long term and possibly substantial impact on FWP's land policies and ability to manage and regulate property. Additionally the costs of maintaining and managing a private road easement through public property also sets up a costly precedent for future land and noxious weed management.

13e. Because of the access issues involved in this case it has generated considerable controversy and comment within the immediate neighborhood. However, whether the state completes the trade or not, the access issue will not be resolved.

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